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439 undertaken, large numbers of tusked pigs are sacrificed in order to con-
484 secrate them, and the effect of this consecration is to make them taboo to
[501] women. In them the natives sail to all the large islands of the Northern New Hebrides, to Ambrim, Raga, Oba, Maewo, Malo and Santo. The chief sources of pigs are Ambrim and South Raga. Oba is chiefly visited on account of its reputation as the Land of Ta-ghar and for the special initiation rite performed there, but the trade in pigs with this island is now slight owing to its recent depopulation. Maewo, also known as the home of Ta-ghar, is now rarely visited. The trade with Malo and Santo is with pigs and turmeric leaves.

Voyages to the southern and eastern islands are usually made by night, the canoes leaving Vao in the late afternoon, and arriving at their destination some time during the following morning. Here they may stay anything up to five days, and then wait for a fair wind to take them home. The days are spent in bargaining. Emotion runs high, and there are many records of fights arising out of disputes, in some of which the visitors manage to save themselves, but in others they are slain and in most cases eaten. Individual accounts of such voyages as undertaken from Atchin will be given in a later volume.

To such lengths will the natives go to keep up their supply of pigs.

Value of tusked boars in terms of English money.

435 Before seeking the underlying reason for this passionate search, one
436 more fact may be mentioned to show the immense value attached to these
439 animals. During the time of my visit there was but little European money in the Small Islands, acquired chiefly by means of the very low wages earned by the indentured labour undertaken by some of the younger men on white men's plantations, supplemented by the selling of a little copra to passing white men's trading-vessels. The amount of money thus made is not very great. What they do make is partly spent in buying white men's goods, such as an occasional singlet or piece of corrugated iron, partly saved up to buy whalers which now replace the sea-going canoes I have just mentioned, and partly used for trading among themselves, in which case it usually replaces their own money-mats. Pigs are not
435 often sold for money, but when this does happen, the prices they fetch are such as to astound the white man, who fails to understand what it is all about. Thus, when I was on Atchin, prices averaged:

For a crescent-tusker	.	about £4[1]
„ curved-tusker	.	„ £6
„ re-entrant-tusker	.	„ £10, £12 or £15
„ circle-tusker	.	from £30 upwards.

[1] Deacon (4, p. 391), six years later, cites a crescent-tusker in Seniang, there called *mbong mmûr*, as being worth £5, with corresponding prices for pigs of lower grade.